

Rev. I. Aske

Sep 10 30 19 1811

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Last Tuesday night I observed a Foreigner at about an hundred yards distance from my house, examining what is called a Druidical Temple, which stands within the Demesne, but on the roadside. I entered into conversation with him, & invited him to breakfast - After some little hesitation, the invitation was accepted.

I embrace the opportunity of asking him as many questions as I possibly could, with any degree of politeness - he told me that he had come lastly from England that he was a ~~physician~~ that his object was to examine the natural curiosities of Ireland & particularly its fossils - He had a servant with him, an Irishman, who was employed in breaking off small pieces from the pillars which support the larger ones - The Master had a large Barometer with him, the servant & taking into which he put the pieces he broke off - They were travelling on foot - On my expressing my surprise that he should put himself to so much trouble & expense on similar pursuits, he intimated that he was employed, by a Society in London, probably, if the account which he gave of himself he took the Antiquarian Society - I asked him if he had been in France lately, he replied that he was there last year - & had seen Bonaparte, & on my asking him,

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if he wore an handsome Man. he answered you  
may suppose not - where I am thought by those who  
have seen us both, to resemble him very much - &  
indeed, if that be the case, his Observation was correct -  
for he is a tall yellow Man, with black hair & dark  
eye brows which almost meet - he wears Spectacles &  
has at Intervals, which was particularly observed  
by Mr Ashe, something on his countenance between  
a grin & a smile - I then asked him how he  
intended to go to Paris & return to England -  
He said that his Mother was an English woman  
that he was a Gentleman - that he first went  
to Switzerland & then to France & so back -  
He speaks English, French, Italian & Latin  
& understands Spanish - On his taking his Leave  
I asked him his Name in Latin - he hesitated  
a moment, probably not immediately under-  
standing me, as I had only conversed with  
him before in Italian & French - & then replied  
Benzer - Tho' I think it highly probable  
that his business was of the nature of a  
gentleman yet I thought it my duty, by virtue of the  
post, to lay the Information before the Irish  
Gov<sup>t</sup> in a Letter addressed to the Lord L<sup>t</sup>

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private Secretary - for I believe that Mr Cole  
is in England - I did not introduce a single  
word on any other Subject - lest the duty so  
should prevent any answer from being returned  
as I was extremely anxious to know that my  
Letter had been received - & I was sent  
myself with the Letter to the Office, which is  
at some miles distance from my house  
but not the best notice has been taken of it

I cannot consider it entirely right that where  
an Invasion is talked of in this part of Ireland,  
a Foreigner should be at full liberty to travel  
through the Country, make what Observations  
he may think proper & then bring them to France  
at the same time, I should be very  
much grieved, if the Man were innocently  
employed, that he should be put to any  
inconvenience, by my suggestions -

If his Royal Highness the Prince Regent fully  
knew the most insulting Treatment which I have  
so frequently experienced for the continued proof  
manifested these sixteen years past of zeal, patriotism  
& loyalty, it could not fail to afflict the Mind  
of his Royal Highness, not on account of an obscure

Individuals, though were that Consideration would be hurt  
his Royal Father, but on account of the Empire at large  
for how else can a Kingdom stand, where the Governours  
provide Loyalty as Treason. The very best Letter  
which I keep the honor of addressing to the Earl  
of Sandwich who was Lieu<sup>t</sup>. Governour of Ireland  
was returned to me unopened - tho' for what  
Government could possibly know to the contrary,  
the most essential & necessary Interests of  
Ireland might have been the Subject of that Letter  
& thousands of lives have been lost, in consequence of  
the unjustifiable figure of a Chief Governour  
shutly before, Sir Lucas Pepier, he will not, I am  
persuaded, deny the causation, if you do me  
that though there were many Candidates at the  
Castle for Church Governour, there was not one,  
of whom, in private or public Opinion was held  
of Integrity, zeal & abilities & that, when  
speaking, my Name was mentioned for preferment  
Let it not be asked Why not fulfilled?  
I feel also more for my Country, as embracing in the  
Sweet charities of Life, than I do for myself  
There is surely some thing wrong & at what  
a Crisis!

Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 1811